

VII. Recreation and Open Space Element

Existing Conditions

The City owns and operates an exceptionally complete and well-rounded range of recreational facilities and open space areas primarily neighborhood parks. Many of these latter areas were included in the original plan for the City and others have been added subsequently as land has been developed. In addition to the City's own facilities, the school sites within the City offer varied recreational opportunities. These facilities are managed by the Hendry County School District and programs are operated jointly with the Clewiston City Recreation Department under an inter-local agreement.

Recreation facilities developed for athletic activities and open space areas intended to remain open as passive parks, picnic areas, freeplay and non-organized leisure activity areas are essential for assuring a pleasant, attractive, and livable city.

It should be noted that pedestrian and bicycle travel within public rights of way is an important recreational function and bicycle paths should be considered in the design of streets which are suitably located and otherwise appropriate for such purpose.

An inventory of facilities is presented in Tables VII.1, VII.2, and VII.3; and, a map of existing facilities is presented in Figure VII-1.

Table VII.1						
Inventory of Existing Recreation Facilities in the City of Clewiston, 2005						
				Improved Facilities (usable)		
Improved (usable) Facility	Quantity	Block #/Location	Special Features	City	Schools	Total
Recreational Facilities						
Swimming Pool	1	Block 181	Parking, Bathhouse	1		1
Tennis Courts	3	Central Park	Parking, Lighted			
	3	Block 178	Parking, Lighted			
	2	New High School	Parking	6	2	8
Racquetball Courts	2	Sugarland Park	Parking	2		2
Youth Center	1	Central Park	Recreation Building	1		1

Library	1	Central Park	Building, Parking	1		1
Playgrounds	1	Block 120				
	2	Primary School				
	1	Ridgewood Addition Park				
	1	Candy Cane Park		3	2	5
Football Fields	1	Clewiston High School	Lighted			
	1	New High School			2	2
Outdoor Track	1	Clewiston High School				
	1	New High School			2	2
Softball Fields	1	Block 120	Lighted			
	1	Sugarland Park	Lighted, Parking			
	1	New High School	Parking	2	1	3
Teeball Field	1	Sugarland Park	Lighted	1		1
Baseball Fields	1	Sugarland Park	Lighted, Parking			
	1	New High School	Parking	1	1	2
General Athletic/Open Play Fields	1	Clewiston North Intermediate School				
	1	Middle School				
	2	Clewiston High School	Parking			
	1	New High School	Parking		5	5
Outdoor Basketball Court	2	Clewiston High School	Parking			
	2	New High School	Parking			
	2	Clewiston Primary School				
	2	Central Park	Parking	2	6	8
Municipal Auditorium	1	Sugarland Park	Parking	1		1
Gymnasiums	1	Clewiston High School	Parking			
	1	New High School	Parking		2	2
Senior Citizens Center	1	Sugarland Park	Clubhouse, Parking	1		1

Table VII.2

**Inventory of Existing Recreation and Open Space
Acreage in the City of Clewiston, 2005**

Acreage in the City of Clewiston, 2005						
				Improved (usable) Acreage		
Facility	Quality	Block #/Location	Special Features	City	Schools	Total
Parks						
Sugarland Park	1	W.C. Owen Avenue	Auditorium, Senior Ctr., Restrooms, Locker Rooms, 3 Ball Diamonds, 2 Racquetball Courts	55.98		55.98
Central Park	1	U.S. Hwy. 27	Bandstand, Landscaping, Library, Youth Ctr, 3 Tennis Courts	4.14		4.14
Central Park East	1	Block 178	3 Tennis Courts			
Esperanza Triangle Park	1	Block 121		.48		.48
	2	Block 122		.73		.73
	1	Block 124		.42		.42
	1	Block 126		1.87		1.87
Osceola and San Pedro	1	Block 164		.07		.07
Esperanza and Date	1	Block 174		.09		.09
Royal Palm and Osceola	1	Block 179		1.47		1.47
Basilan Crescent	1	Block 115		3.50		3.50
Ventura and Deane Duff	1	Block 118		.55		.55
Trinidad	1	Block 120	Softball Field, Apparatus, Restrooms, Concession	3.53		3.53
Ponce De Leon & Osceola		Block 183		1.47		1.47
Diaz Place		Block 189		.15		.15
ARC Park		Block 209		1.14		1.14
Circle & Osceola Triangle		Block 212		.07		.07

Candy Cane		Block 431	Playground	.93		.93
Basilan Crescent		Block 466		.05		.05
Sugarland Estates		Sugarland Estates		1.96		1.96
Ridgeview Estates(1)		Berner Road		.33		.33
Ridgeview Estates(2 & 3)		Saginaw Avenue		2.39		2.39
Ridgewood Addition(1)		Pinewood Street		2.98		2.98
Ridgewood Addition(2)		Ridgewood Avenue	Playground	2.68		2.68
Hoover Dike Park		North of Levee at Northern City Limits	Picnic Tables	18.60		18.60
Total Park Acreage				105.36 AC		105.38 AC

Table VII.3

**Inventory of Other Recreation and Open Space
In the City of Clewiston, 2005**

Facility	Quantity	Block #/Location	Special Features	Improved (usable) Acreage/Facilities Total
Municipal Golf Course	1	SW Corner of City	Clubhouse	18 holes
Canal 21 Boat Ramps	6	NE Corner of City	Floating dock, parking	6 ramps

Sources:

- (1) Inventory, Clewiston Recreation Department, May 17, 1989.
- (2) Hendry County District Schools Staff.

Recreation and Open Space Standards

Recreation and open space standards provide an effective means of relating the types and amounts of land and facilities appropriate for a given community in relation to its significant characteristics and projected population. The demand for certain facilities varies from community to community and over time, in accordance with changes in lifestyles. Demand for

recreation and open space facilities and areas in Clewiston have been determined after a review of standards advocated by various organizations including the National Recreation Association.

The Recreation and Open Space Standards developed for the City of Clewiston are reflected in Table VII.4.

Table VII.4

**Recreation and Open Space Level of Service Standards
City of Clewiston, Florida**

Type of Facility	Level of Service Standard
Baseball field	1 field per 5,000 pop.
Softball field/teeball field	1 field per 2,500 pop.
Football field	1 field per 10,000 pop.
Multi-purpose/open play field	1 field per 2,500 pop.
Racquetball court	1 court per 5,000 pop.
Basketball court	1 court per 1,500 pop.
Tennis court	1 court per 1,500 pop.
Youth Community Activity Center	1 center per 10,000 pop.
Adult/Senior Citizens Center	1 center per 10,000 pop.
Gymnasium	1 gym per 10,000 pop.
Outdoor Track	1 track per 10,000 pop.
Library	1 library per 50,000 pop.
Playground (with apparatus)	1 area per 2,500 pop.
Swimming Pool	1 pool per 10,000 pop.
Passive Parks/Open Space	6 acres per 1,000 pop.
Boat Ramp	1 ramp per 2,500 pop.
Golf Courses (18 holes)	1 course per 10,000 pop.

Source: Gee & Jenson Engineers - Architects - Planners, Inc.

Desirable Site Area and Service Radius Standards

It is important that recreation facilities and open space areas are of sufficient site area and have a distribution pattern within the community such that convenience is provided for users without adversely affecting adjacent properties. Off-street parking for certain facilities is important where the service area for the facility extends further than one-half mile from the facility.

Lighting of facilities which are expected to have frequent night-time usage is imperative in order to provide recreation programs in accordance with current practice in most communities to accommodate the schedules of adults in the work force.

Lighting of athletic facilities and evening operation must be carefully planned to avoid adverse neighborhood impacts.

The combination of recreation facilities at Central Park, Sugar-land Park, and the high schools has resulted in convenience for the recreation users, efficiency and economy of operation, reduction in potential adverse effects on surrounding neighborhoods, and a generally good distribution pattern in relation to the City's various neighborhoods. Street access is excellent to most recreational areas. The Site Area and Service Area Standards considered appropriate for the City of Clewiston are presented in Table VII.5.

Table VII.5

**Site Area and Service Radius Standards
Recreation Facilities and Open Space Areas
City of Clewiston, Florida**

Facility/Area	Desirable Site Area	Desirable Service Radius
Active Recreation Field/Court Complex Serving Entire Community	3-30 ac.	1-5 mi.
Active Recreation Facility Serving a Neighborhood	1-5 ac.	½-1 mi.
Passive Parks Serving Entire Community	2-20 ac.	2-10 mi.
Passive Parks Serving a Neighborhood	¼-5 ac.	½-1 mi.
Note: Standards are not included for individual recreational facilities because site area varies depending upon combinations of facilities and potential variance in off-site effects.		

Source: Gee & Jenson Engineers—Architects—Planners, Inc.

Recreation and Open Space Demand Analysis

In order to determine the adequacy of facilities and park acreage to meet the needs of existing and projected future populations, projections of demand must be made based on developed standards.

Needs Assessment

As stated at the beginning of this Element, the City of Clewiston is fortunate in having an exceptionally complete and abundant supply of recreational facilities. This condition is an indication of the importance the City's founders placed in developing a well-conceived plan for the City and their commitment to achieving a high standard of livability and leisure opportunities for the City's citizens.

The Recreation Department is currently working on two park projects, each funded with \$150,000 grants. Both parks were expected to be completed by May 2006. Sugarland Park has a new large pavilion complete with restrooms and picnic tables, and a tot lot. Another racquetball court has been added and shuffleboard courts and a basketball court should be installed by the first of July 2006.

Trinidad Park is returning to its former glory with a rustic designed playground, with equipment for big kids and a mini playground for toddlers. Parents can walk the trail that is currently under construction or use one of the five exercise stations along the way. A pavilion is already installed with picnic tables and grills, as well as individual picnic tables throughout the playground. The soccer and softball fields, complete with new dugouts, will be renovated and a full basketball court will be constructed.

The City presently meets all standards for recreation facilities as set forth in Table V11.2. The surplus of facilities for athletic activities normally associated with high school team and individual athletic competition is a result of the presence within the City of schools which serve residents of the unincorporated areas of Hendry County. It would be entirely appropriate therefore to increase the actual population served by the high school athletic complexes which would have the effect of a reduction in the availability of those facilities for the population of the City of Clewiston. Even with a service reduction reflecting usage of school facilities by non-City residents, the level of service currently available and projected for 2010 and 2015 is sufficiently above the standard to enable maintenance of the level of service standard through those projection periods.

Recreation and Open Space Goals, Objectives, and Policies

- Goal 1:** Provide sufficient, diversified recreation and open space opportunities to ensure the physical and mental health of City residents and strengthen the City's ability to retain and attract business and industrial employment for the City's population.
- Objective 1.1:** The City will establish and maintain level of service standards set forth in this Comprehensive Plan for public recreation facilities which ensure adequate recreational opportunities on a continuing basis for current and future residents of the City.
- Policy 1.1.1:** The City hereby adopts level of service standards for public recreation facilities and open space as set forth in Table VII.4 of this element.
- Objective 1.2:** The City shall ensure adequate and safe public access to all existing and proposed public recreational facilities.
- Policy 1.2.1:** The City shall enforce provisions within its land development regulations which require that accessways be provided at all public recreational sites of a sufficient width and character to enable 2-way vehicular traffic,

pedestrians and bicycles. In the event of prohibitive costs, design constraints or safety problems, vehicular access and parking may be provided off-site, but within reasonable walking distance of the recreational facility.

- Policy 1.2.2:** All recreational sites intended for active use shall be provided access for the transportation disadvantaged through the designation of handicapped parking spaces, bicycle parking/storage spaces and informational signs indicating hours of operation. Passive parks abutting improved streets may utilize on-street parking in lieu of on-site parking.
- Objective 1.3:** The City shall coordinate recreational facility development and usage of its recreational facilities with Hendry County, surrounding local governments, and private interests.
- Policy 1.3.1:** The City encourages equitable inter-community sharing of recreation and open space facilities.
- Policy 1.3.2:** Level of service standards for recreation/open space will be maintained through orderly planning and programming by the City and effective intergovernmental coordination.
- Policy 1.3.3:** The City shall maintain an inventory of public and private recreation resources to determine if there are service inadequacies and opportunities for sharing of facilities and programs so as to provide safe, convenient access for all residents to parks and other recreation facilities in accordance with level of service standards set forth in this Element.
- Objective 1.4:** The City will ensure that parks and recreation facilities are adequately provided, in accordance with level of service standards set forth in this Element and adapted by reference in Policy 1.1.1.
- Policy 1.4.1:** The City shall ensure that level of service standards will be met by all future residential developments.
- Objective 1.5:** The City will maintain its present public open space areas and require dedication to the City at time of platting of new residential lots, such additional areas as may be necessary to continuously achieve the established level of service standards.
- Policy 1.5.1:** The City shall require that all new developments in excess of fifty dwelling units, shall provide a proportional share of the City's Recreation and Open Space Level of Service (LOS) requirement, or a fee in lieu of the required land.

Policy 1.5.2:

The City will utilize and maintain its open space areas so as to enhance community character and the health of the City's citizens and continue to require within its development regulations the provision of open space as a condition of land development and permitting by limiting the amount of land that may be covered by structures and impervious surfaces, by requiring setbacks and by relating structural bulk to land area; and by designation within the Comprehensive Plan those open space areas worthy of preservation through acquisition, dedication in fee simple easement or other appropriate means and thereby ensure implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.